What is claimed is:

1.   A transmitting apparatus for transmitting a hierarchical structure of a directory for hierarchically managing locations of contents data, comprising:

managing means for managing a hierarchical structure of a directory composed of a container entry and a leaf entry, a container entry containing information in the immediately lower hierarchical level thereof, a leaf entry being disposed in the immediately lower hierarchical level of a container entry, a leaf entry not containing information in the immediately lower hierarchical level thereof;

detecting means for detecting a change of the hierarchical structure of the directory managed by said managing means and obtaining first difference information and second difference information corresponding to the detected result, the first difference information being the difference of container entries corresponding to the detected result, the second difference information being the difference of leaf entries; and

transmitting means for separately transmitting the first difference information and the second difference information.

2.   The transmitting apparatus as set forth in claim 1,

72

wherein said transmitting means adds identification information that identifies each container entry to the first difference information.

3.   The transmitting apparatus as set forth in claim 1,

wherein said transmitting means adds identification information that identifies each leaf entry to the second difference information.

4.   A transmitting method for transmitting a hierarchical structure of a directory for hierarchically managing locations of contents data, comprising the steps of:

(a) managing a hierarchical structure of a directory composed of a container entry and a leaf entry, a container entry containing information in the immediately lower hierarchical level thereof, a leaf entry being disposed in the immediately lower hierarchical level of a container entry, a leaf entry not containing information in the immediately lower hierarchical level thereof;

(b) detecting a change of the hierarchical structure of the directory managed at step (a) and obtaining first difference information and second difference information corresponding to the detected result, the first difference information being the difference of container entries, the second difference information being the difference of leaf entries; and

73

(c) separately transmitting the first difference information and the second difference information.

5.   A receiving apparatus for receiving a hierarchical structure of a directory for hierarchically managing the locations of contents data that is transmitted, comprising:

receiving means for receiving first difference information, first identification information, second difference information, and second identification information, the first difference information being obtained by detecting a change of container entries, the first identification information identifying each container entry added to the first difference information, the second difference information being obtained by detecting a change of leaf entries, the second identification information identifying each leaf entry added to the second difference information, the directory being composed of container entries and leaf entries, a container entry containing information in the immediately lower hierarchical level thereof, a leaf entry not containing information in the immediately lower hierarchical level thereof;

managing means for managing the hierarchical structure of the directory formed corresponding to the first difference information and the second difference

74

information; and

changing means for selectively obtaining the second difference information and changing the hierarchical structure of the directory managed by said managing means corresponding to the obtained second difference information.

6.   The receiving apparatus as set forth in claim 5,

wherein said changing means selectively obtains the second difference information as a leaf entry in the immediately lower hierarchical level of a container entry represented by the first identification information corresponding to selection information selectively designated to the first identification information and changes the hierarchical structure of the directory managed by said managing means.

7.   A receiving method for receiving a hierarchical structure of a directory for hierarchically managing the locations of contents data that is transmitted, comprising the steps of:

(a) receiving first difference information, first identification information, second difference information, and second identification information, the first difference information being obtained by detecting a change of container entries, the first identification information identifying each container entry added to the first difference information, the

75

second difference information being obtained by detecting a change of leaf entries, the second identification information identifying each leaf entry added to the second difference information, the

5   directory being composed of container entries and leaf entries, a container entry containing information in the immediately lower hierarchical level thereof, a leaf entry not containing information in the immediately lower hierarchical level thereof;

10   (b) managing the hierarchical structure of the directory formed corresponding to the first difference information and the second difference information; and

(c) selectively obtaining the second

15   difference information and changing the hierarchical structure of the directory managed at step (b) corresponding to the obtained second difference information.

8.   A transmitting and receiving system for

20   transmitting a hierarchical structure of a directory for hierarchically managing locations of contents data and receiving the transmitted hierarchical structure, comprising:

first managing means for managing a

25   hierarchical structure of a directory composed of a container entry and a leaf entry, a container entry containing information in the immediately lower

76

hierarchical level thereof, a leaf entry being disposed

in the immediately lower hierarchical level of a

container entry, a leaf entry not containing

information in the immediately lower hierarchical level

5   thereof;

detecting means for detecting a change of the

hierarchical structure of the directory managed by said

first managing means and obtaining first difference

information and second difference information

10   corresponding to the detected result, the first

difference information being the difference of

container entries corresponding to the detected result,

the second difference information being the difference

of leaf entries;

15   transmitting means for adding first

identification information to the first difference

information and second identification information to

the second difference information and separately

transmitting the first difference information and the

20   second difference information, the first identification

information identifying each container entry, the

second identification information identifying each leaf

entry;

receiving means for receiving the first

25   difference information, the first identification

information, the second difference information, and the

second identification information transmitted by said

77

transmitting means;

second managing means for managing the
hierarchical structure of the directory formed
corresponding to the first difference information and
the second difference information; and

changing means for selectively obtaining the
second difference information and changing the
hierarchical structure of the directory managed by said
second managing means corresponding to the obtained
second difference information.

9. The receiving and transmitting system as set
forth in claim 8,

wherein said changing means selectively
obtains the second difference information as a leaf
entry in the immediately lower hierarchical level of a
container entry represented by the first identification
information corresponding to selection information
selectively designated to the first identification
information and changes the hierarchical structure of
the directory managed by said second managing means.

10. A transmitting and receiving method for
transmitting a hierarchical structure of a directory
for hierarchically managing locations of contents data
and receiving the transmitted hierarchical structure,
comprising the steps of:

(a) managing a hierarchical structure of a
directory composed of a container entry and a leaf

78

entry, a container entry containing information in the
immediately lower hierarchical level thereof, a leaf
entry being disposed in the immediately lower
hierarchical level of a container entry, a leaf entry

5   not containing information in the immediately lower
hierarchical level thereof;

(b) detecting a change of the hierarchical
structure of the directory managed at step (a) and
obtaining first difference information and second

10   difference information corresponding to the detected
result, the first difference information being the
difference of container entries, the second difference
information being the difference of leaf entries;

(c) adding first identification information

15   to the first difference information and second
identification information to the second difference
information and separately transmitting the first
difference information and the second difference
information, the first identification information

20   identifying each container entry, the second
identification information identifying each leaf entry;

(d) receiving the first difference
information, the first identification information, the
second difference information, and the second

25   identification information transmitted at step (c);

(e) managing the hierarchical structure of
the directory formed corresponding to the first

79

difference information and the second difference information; and

(f) selectively obtaining the second difference information and changing the hierarchical structure of the directory managed at step (e) corresponding to the obtained second difference information.